

CONTROL OF A GENE INDUCED BY OXIDIZED LIPIDS IN HUMAN ARTERY WALL CELLS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

This invention provides novel methods of inhibiting one or more symptoms
5 of atherosclerosis. Also provided are assays for compounds that will inhibit the progression
and/or ameliorate one or more symptoms of atherosclerosis. The methods and assays are
based, in part, on the discovery that oxidized LDL or components thereof induce strong
upregulation of MAP kinase phosphatase-1 which, in turn, is associated with an
"inflammatory response" characteristic of atherosclerotic plaque formation. Inhibition of
10 MKP-1 inhibits one or more symptoms of this response, *e.g.* monocyte adhesion, monocyte
chemotaxis, differentiation into macrophages, *etc.* Inhibition of MKP-1 thus provides an
effective method of inhibiting symptoms of atherosclerosis.

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